Start a Community Advisory Group!

Community Advisory Groups may be formed at any point and serve as a liaison between EPA and the community. Community members who wish to participate on a CAG should contact your Community Involvement Coordinator, Larry Johnson at (215) 814-3239 for more information.

Technical Assistance Grant

EPA's Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Program provides funds of up to $50,000 to qualified citizens' groups affected by a Superfund site to hire independent technical advisors to help interpret and comment on site-related information. Since only one TAG may be awarded for a site, EPA encourages groups to consolidate to apply. For TAG information, please contact Amelia Libertz, TAG Coordinator at 1-800-553-2509

SITE CONTACTS

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United States Environmental Protection Agency

Region 3
AVTEX Fibers Superfund Site
Front Royal, VA
September 2009

EPA Seeks Public Comment on Proposed Cleanup Plan

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking public comment on the Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) for cleaning up contaminated groundwater (Operable Unit 7) at the **AVTEX Fibers Superfund Site in Front Royal Virginia.** The plan outlines several options for cleanup, including the EPA's preferred cleanup option.

EPA's preferred cleanup is Alternative C:

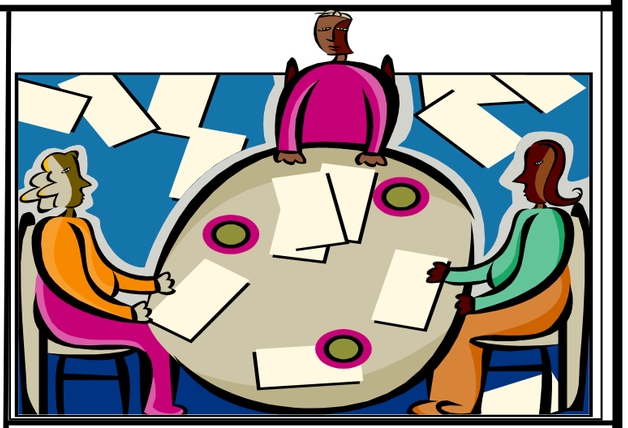
Basin capping, groundwater extraction and leachate removal is the preferred alternative for OU7 groundwater, surface water, and viscose basins 9, 10, and 11. Alternative C has the same components as Alternative B, except that the leachate would be extracted from the viscose basins. Leachate would require a complex treatment path to the waste water treatment plant (WWTP). The leachate would then be blended with extracted ground water to allow safe treatment in the WWTP. The cost for Alternative C is estimated to range from $30,000,000 to $31,400,000.

The other options EPA considered are summarized in this fact sheet.

Your Role in the Process

Community Involvement is critical to EPA's decision making process. You have a voice in telling us what you think about our cleanup plan. If you would like to review the full plan and other site-related documents, please go to: www.epa.gov/arweb

To find the site documents, select '**VA**' for State, and '**AVTEX Fibers**' for Site Name. Click on '**Search**' and then '**Search Results**.' The Proposed Remedial Action Plan for Operable Unit 7 is listed near the end.



Public Meeting

EPA will hold a public meeting to explain the Proposed Cleanup Plan and to receive your comments.
When? Tuesday September 22, 2009
7PM - 9PM

Where? Randolph Macon Academy
Media Center
200 Academy Road
Front Royal, VA

We Want Your Opinion!

The public has 30 days to submit comments on EPA's Proposed Plan. Comments will be accepted from:
August 27, 2009 to September 28, 2009
Please mail comments to:

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA
ATTN: Kate Lose, 3HS23

You may also send them via email, to:
Lose.kate@epa.gov

Summary of Cleanup Options

EPA considered five cleanup options.

Alternative A: No Action.
Cost: $0 EPA is required by law to consider the "no action" option.

Alternative B: Basin Capping and Groundwater Extraction and Treatment.
Cost: $24,200,000 to $25,600,000.

Alternative C: Basin Capping, Groundwater Extraction and Treatment and Leachate Removal and Treatment. **This is EPA's preferred option.**
Cost: $30,000,000 to $31,400,000.

Alternative D: Basin Capping, Groundwater Extraction and In-situ Treatment of Viscose Basin Solids/Leachate with Electrical Resistance Heating (ERH).
Cost: $74,200,000 to $75,600,000.

Alternative E: Ex-situ treatment of Viscose Basin Solids and Ground Water Extraction/ Treatment.
Cost: $142,500,000 to $143,900,000.

EPA's Nine Criteria Analysis

Before a final cleanup is chosen, all the options must be judged against nine criteria to make sure that EPA is selecting the best cleanup. The nine criteria are:

1. *Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment*
2. *Compliance with Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements*
3. *Long-term Effectiveness*
4. *Reduction of Toxicity, Mobility, or Volume through Treatment*
5. *Short-term Effectiveness*
6. *Implementability*
7. *Cost*
8. *State Acceptance*
9. *Community Acceptance*

Next Steps

After the public comment period has ended and all the comments have been reviewed and carefully considered, EPA will choose the final cleanup plan for the site. The final cleanup will be described in a **Record of Decision (ROD)**.

The answers to the public comments will be recorded in a document called the Responsiveness Summary, which is part of the ROD. If EPA gets any comments or information that change our preferred cleanup option, that will also be recorded in the ROD.

For More Information

For more information about the plan or the documents and reports that were used in its development, or about the site in general, please visit any of the following locations:

Samuels Public Library
538 Villa Avenue
Front Royal, Virginia
540-635-3153

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EPA Administrative Records Room
1650 Arch Street - (3HS42)
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Please call Anna Butch, Administrative Record Coordinator at (215) 814-3157 for an appointment.

Site History

The Avtex Fibers site is located in Front Royal, Virginia and occupies approximately 440 acres. The Randolph Macon Academy is located along the east property boundary. The former General Chemical plant is located along the northwest border of the site. Residential areas are located to the east, south, and north of the property. The South Fork of the Shenandoah River is located along the western portion of the property.

Operations at the site began in 1940, when American Viscose opened a rayon production plant. In 1963, American Viscose sold the plant and property to FMC, and in 1976, the plant and property were sold by FMC to Avtex Fibers-Front Royal, Inc. Rayon fibers were continually produced until the plant closed in 1989. Polyester and polypropylene were also produced over short periods of time.

In 1982, the Commonwealth of Virginia detected carbon disulfide in residential wells located across the South Fork of the Shenandoah River. In 1984, EPA proposed that the site be addressed under the Superfund program. Between 1986 and 1988, Avtex conducted an investigation of the source and extent of the carbon disulfide in ground water. The investigation determined that waste viscose containing carbon disulfide was leaching from three of the eleven viscose basins (VB9, 10, and 11). In 1988, EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) which called for pumping and treating the groundwater beneath and down gradient of VB9, 10, and11. This remedy was subsequently suspended pending a Site-wide investigation.

Shortly after the 1988 ROD was issued, Avtex shut down the facility. After the plant shut down in 1989, EPA initiated response actions to ensure there would be no uncontrolled releases of hazardous substances or other threats to human health and the environment. In the several years following the plant's shutdown, EPA responded to the various emergency and time critical conditions the site presented.

In 1999, EPA and FMC entered into a comprehensive Consent Decree. FMC agreed to conduct the cleanup under EPA oversight.

OU7, the subject of this Proposed Plan, groundwater, surface water and Viscose Basins 9 – 11 is the final action for the site which is not being addressed under another administrative agreement. The Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study was completed in July 2009 and is the basis for this Proposed Plan. The RI/FS examined groundwater issues for the entire AVTEX site

The work done at AVTEX is divided into smaller manageable phases called operable units (OUs). Over the last 20 years numerous removal and remedial activities have been conducted to address threats to human health and the environment at each OU.

Operable Unit One (OU-1)-Groundwater-now being addressed as part of OU-7.

Operable Unit Two (OU-2) - PCB contaminated soils treated and disposed of off-site. Completed by EPA in January 1992.

Operable Unit Three (OU-3) - Dismantling and demolition of the acid reclaim buildings, completed by EPA in September 1993.

Operable Unit Four (OU-4) - Site security. This remedial action was completed by EPA in September 2002.

Operable Unit 5 (OU-5) – Drums containing hazardous materials removed for proper disposal. Completed by EPA in September 1994.

Operable Unit 6 (OU-6) - Demolition of high hazard process buildings. This response action is complete.

Operable Unit 7 (OU-7) - Viscose Basins 9, 10 and 11, ground water, and surface water which is the subject of this Proposed Plan.

Operable Unit (OU-8) - Institutional controls recorded which permanently restrict the land use of Areas B and C to commercial/industrial.

Operable Unit 9 (OU-9) - Ecological investigation and risk assessment.

Operable Unit 10 (OU-10) Consists of plant soils, visocose basins 1 through 8, the wastewater treatment plant and the new landfill. This remedial action is ongoing.